

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated August 31, 2009. With this response, claims 1, 32 and 35 are amended; claims 8, 9, 30, 31 and 34 are cancelled; and all pending claims 1-7, 10-17, 19-29, 32-33, and 35-37 are presented for reconsideration and favorable action.

In the Office Action, claims were rejected under 35 § U.S.C. 102 and 103. Claims 9, 23, 24 and 34-36 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

With this response, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claims 8 and 9. Similarly, independent claim 32 has been amended to contain the allowable subject matter of claim 34. Claims 30 and 31 have been cancelled. It is believed that this has placed the application in condition for allowance.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue, or comment, including the Office Action's characterizations of the art, does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue, or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment or cancellation of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment or cancellation. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute the rejection claims in further prosecution of this or related applications.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that the present application is in condition for allowance. Consideration and favorable action are respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTMAN, CHAMPLIN & KELLY, P.A.

By: 

Judson K. Champlin, Reg. No. 34,797  
900 Second Avenue South, Suite 1400  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-3244  
Phone: (612) 334-3222  
Fax: (612) 334-3312

JKC;rev